Historic, archived document

Do not assume content reflects current scientific knowledge, policies, or practices.

626 R

FOREST RESEARCH NOTES
U.S.DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
FOREST SERVICE
CALIFORNIA FOREST AND RANGE
EXPERIMENT STATION *
STEPHEN N. WYCKOFF, Director

LIBRARY
SEP 9 - 1959
U. S. DEPT. OF AGRICULTURE

No. 65 December 8, 1949

ESTIMATED LUMBER PRODUCTION IN CALIFORNIA - 1948[1]

By George F. Burks
Forest Survey, Division of Forest Economics

Lumber production in California in 1948, for the third successive year exceeded all previous records. The estimated cut was 3,962,910,000 board feet. This cut when combined with the production of all other forest products exceeds four billion board feet.

This estimate of lumber production was compiled by the California Forest and Range Experiment Station from data collected in a three-way cooperative canvass of California sawmills by the West Coast Lumbermen's Association, the Western Pine Association, and the Experiment Station. Western Pine Association covered production of mills in the Pine Region, while the West Coast Lumbermen's Association and the Experiment Station canvassed sawmills in Del Norte and Humboldt Counties. In addition, the Experiment Station sampled the remainder of the counties in the Redwood Region and worked closely with the two Associations in checking the accuracy and completeness of their mailing lists of active sawmills.

The reliability of the total lumber production figure is indicated somewhat by the fact that 3,629,767 M bd ft., or about 92 percent of total production, was included in the reports of the 529 responding mills. The remaining 8 percent of total production is attributed to the 442 nonrespondent and nonsampled active sawmills, largely in the smaller size classes. This amount was estimated by expanding the production of the sampled mills in each size class by the ratio of mills sampled to the total number of mills in each production size class.

---

[1] Richard H. May and Alexander Simontacchi collected the production data for the Experiment Station and compiled the statistics appearing in this report.

* MAINTAINED AT BERKELEY, CALIFORNIA, IN COOPERATION WITH THE UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA.

Highlights of 1948 Lumber Production

Total production in 1948 showed an increase of 16 percent over 1947. The segregation of the 1948 production by species compared with that of 1947 is presented in Table 1. In both years the relative production by species remained essentially the same, with ponderosa pine, Douglas-fir and redwood accounting for about 80 percent of the total.

The production for 1948 continues a trend that has been generally upward for the past 10 years (fig. 1). The change was less noticeable during the war years of 1941-44 inclusive, but for the period 1945 through 1948 there has been a striking increase each year.

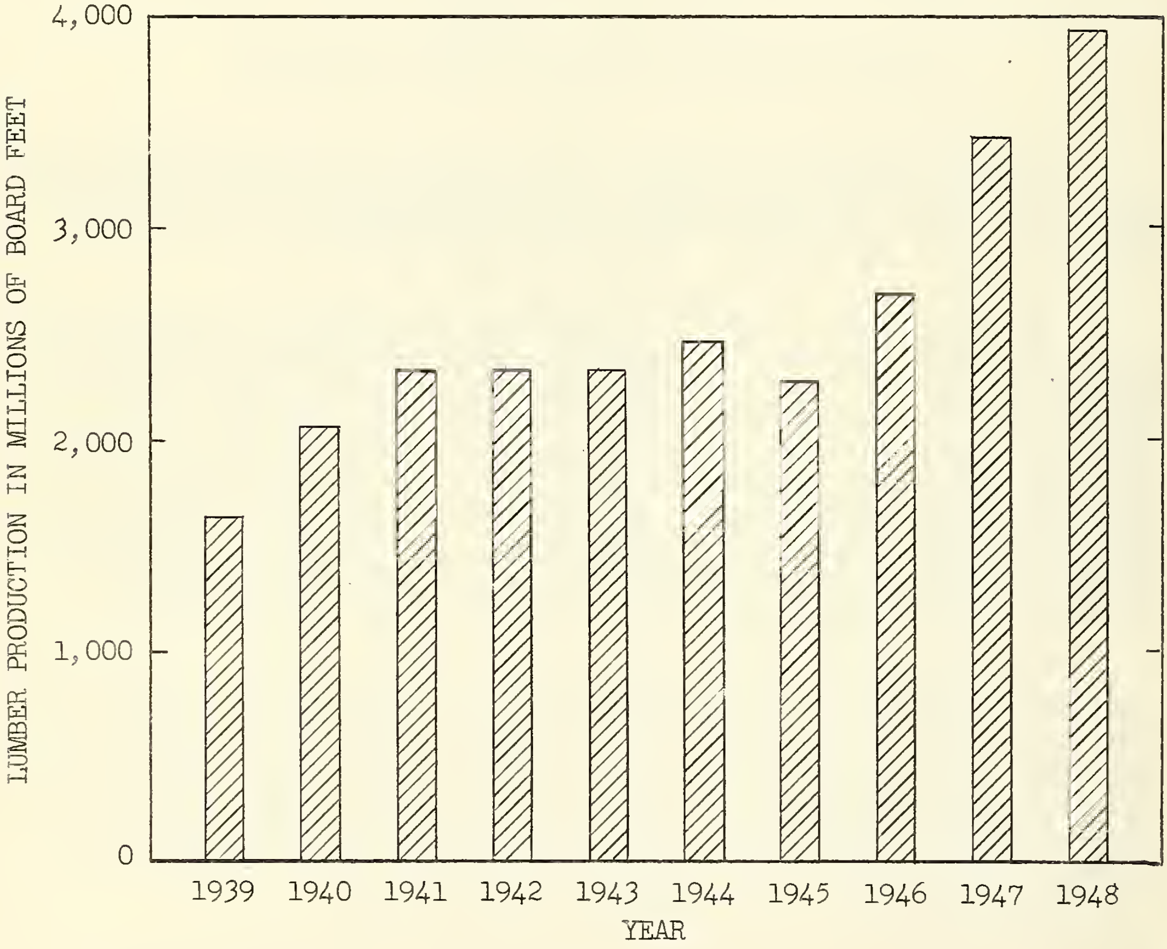

Figure 1.- Lumber production in California, 1939-1948.

Pine Region

Lumber production estimates by species and production size class for the Pine Region in 1948 are presented in Table 2. The 2.6 billion board feet of lumber produced in 1948 was about 8 percent higher than the 2.4 billion board feet produced in 1947. Approximately the same number of mills were active in both years.

Ponderosa and sugar pine account for about two-thirds of the 1948 Pine Region total, while Douglas-fir and the true firs account for most of the remainder.

Of the total estimated cut of 2,607,690 M bd. ft., 2,440,318 M bd. ft. or 94 percent, was actually reported by slightly more than one-half of all active sawmills. Therefore, only 6 percent of the Pine Region production is estimated.

Redwood Region

Lumber production estimates by species and production size class for the Redwood Region in 1948 are presented in Table 3. The 1.3 billion board feet of lumber produced in 1948 was about 31 percent higher than the 1.0 billion board feet produced in 1947. The number of active sawmills has increased proportionately with 393 on record for 1948.

Redwood and Douglas-fir made up approximately 98 percent of the entire cut of the region.

As in the Pine Region, the largest portion (1,189,449 M bd. ft.), or 88 percent of total regional production (1,355,220 M bd. ft.), was actually reported by one-half of all active mills. Thus, only 12 percent of Redwood Region production is estimated.

County Statistics

Coincident with the regional compilations, estimates of production were made for all timber producing counties. But these amounts are not reported here because the basic data did not permit equally sound estimates for all counties. However, it was apparent that Humboldt County was again the leading producer by a wide margin. Other leading counties, all cutting more than 200 million feet, were Mendocino, Siskiyou, Plumas, Lassen, Shasta, and possibly El Dorado.

In spite of the limitations of the county estimates, some individuals, organizations, or concerns may desire the information. It may be obtained upon request from the Experiment Station.

Table 1.- Production of lumber by species
California, 1947 and 1948

Species	Lumber production				Change from 1947 to 1948
	1948		[1]1947		
	M bd. ft.	Percent	M bd. ft.	Percent	Percent
Ponderosa pine[2]	1,458,120	36.8	1,322,182	38.8	+ 10.3
Douglas-fir	925,440	23.4	768,866	22.6	+ 20.4
Redwood[3]	793,250	20.0	529,921	15.5	+ 49.7
White fir and red fir	471,100	11.9	417,627	12.2	+ 12.8
Sugar pine	236,930	6.0	281,406	8.2	- 15.8
Incense cedar	68,960	1.7	70,354	2.1	- 2.0
Sitka spruce	7,480	0.2	12,315	0.4	- 39.3
Port Orford cedar	680	—	643	0.1	—
Western white pine	510	—	None reported		—
Alder[4]	200	—	742		—
Western hemlock	160	—	242		—
Lodgepole pine	80	—	172		—
Monterey pine	—	—	4,052	0.1	—
All species	3,962,910	100.0	3,408,522	100.0	+ 16.3

[1] From Census of Manufactures, 1947, Lumber and Timber Basic Products, U. S. Department of Commerce, Washington, D. C., 1949.

[2] Includes small volume of Monterey pine in 1948.

[3] Includes 130 M bd. ft. of bigtree in 1948.

[4] Includes 62M bd ft. of oak in 1947.

Table 2.- Estimated lumber production - by species and production size class
California Pine Region1/ - 1948

Production size class	Total no. of active mills	No. of mills reporting	Lumber sawed by species (M bd. ft.) 2/					All species6/	
			Ponderosa pine3/	Sugar pine	Douglas-fir	White fir and red fir	Incense cedar & other softwoods 4/	Quantity	Percent
8 (50MM and over)	7	7	361,860	58,710	22,060	103,480	9,290	555,400	21.3
7 (25 to 49.9MM)	21	21	289,260	75,090	93,110	145,370	14,320	617,150	23.7
6 (15 to 24.9MM)	20	20	174,700	42,890	57,220	68,430	9,290	352,530	13.5
5 (10 to 14.9MM)	19	19	108,860	5,630	42,030	49,370	2,730	208,620	8.0
4 (5 to 9.9MM)	66	64	243,970	31,130	106,430	45,780	17,450	444,760	17.1
3 (1 to 4.9MM)	136	98	212,050	16,050	59,400	32,810	11,710	332,020	12.7
2 (500 to 999M)	97	29	36,450	4,270	11,850	6,360	3,620	62,550	2.4
1 (50 to 499M)	167	55	25,090	1,380	2,880	3,090	1,240	33,680	1.3
0 (under 50M)	45	21	750	150	50	0	30	980	-
All classes									
Amount	5/578	334	1,452,990	235,300	395,030	454,690	69,680	2,607,690	
Percent	100.0	58.0	55.7	9.0	15.2	17.4	2.7		100.0

1/ Includes all counties in California not listed in the Redwood Region. (See Table 3, footnote 1.)

2/ Shown to nearest 10 M bd. ft.

3/ Includes Jeffrey pine and Coulter pine.

4/ In addition to incense cedar, includes 510 M ft. western white pine; 130 M ft. bigtree; and 80 M ft. lodgepole pine.

5/ In addition there were 92 nonoperating mills in the Pine Region in 1948.

6/ Probably some hardwood lumber was cut, as in former years, but none was reported.

Table 3.- Estimated lumber production - by species and production size class
California Redwood Region1/ - 1948

Production size class		Total no. of active mills	No. of mills reporting	Lumber sawed by species (M bd. ft.)2/								All species	
				Redwood	Douglas-fir	3/ White fir	Sitka spruce	4/ Ponderosa pine	Sugar pine	Port Orford cedar	Alder	Quantity	Percent
8	(50MM and over)	5	5	248,200	35,490	13,240	-	-	-	-	-	296,930	21.9
7	(25 to 49.9MM)	7	7	97,770	120,900	2,290	1,170	-	30	-	-	222,160	16.4
6	(15 to 24.9MM)	3	3	48,900	9,470	60	-	-	-	-	-	58,430	4.3
5	(10 to 14.9MM)	13	13	79,380	86,050	270	-	840	560	-	-	167,100	12.3
4	(5 to 9.9MM)	32	32	98,490	128,320	560	-	1,020	300	620	-	229,310	16.9
3	(1 to 4.9MM)	116	77	193,170	97,520	150	5,710	1,840	240	60	200	298,890	22.1
2	(500 to 999M)	77	15	16,300	36,740	-	200	-	-	-	-	53,240	4.0
1	(50 to 499M)	122	38	10,620	15,870	-	400	1,430	500	-	-	28,820	2.1
0	(under 50M)	18	5	290	50	-	-	-	-	-	-	340	-
All classes													
Amount		5/393	195	793,120	530,410	16,570	7,480	5,130	1,630	680	200	1,355,220	
Percent		100.0	50.0	58.6	39.1	1.2	0.6	0.4	0.1	-	-		100.0

1/ Includes following counties: Del Norte, Humboldt, Mendocino (excepting extreme eastern portion), Sonoma, Marin, Alameda, Santa Clara, San Mateo and Santa Cruz.

2/ Shown to nearest 10 M bd. ft.

3/ Includes 160 M bd. ft. of Western hemlock by class 4 mills.

4/ Includes a small amount of Monterey pine.

5/ In addition there were 45 nonoperating mills in the Redwood Region in 1948.